

**Friis, John**

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**From:** Jean Sandoval [jean.sandoval@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 16, 2009 12:07 AM  
**To:** Friis, John  
**Subject:** HB6666, Section 5

To whom it may concern,

Hi, My name is Jean Sandoval, an alumni from ECA. I graduated in the class of 2000. I had the privilege of attending ECA all four years of my high schools, while also attending HSC (high school in the community) in New Haven, CT. The reason why I take time to write this is because of the meaning and the impact that ECA had on my life.

I auditioned for the Music Dept. in the fall of 1996 as a beginner guitarist, didn't have a lot of skill, but now I understand that the faculty saw beyond my skill at the time, but they saw a potential, To me, that was hope, those were a group of people who believed in me.

To make a long story short, I continued pursuing music in college (which might I add that I was more than prepared for college because of the advanced teachings and college level material being taught at ECA). I am now a full-time, professional musician who doesn't just play an instrument, but I teach music, produce music, arrange music, compose music and tour all over the country playing all genres varying from gospel to jazz to pop to rock.

I'm not shy to say that it is because of ECA. It is because of the fact that ECA did not just teach by the book, but it was beyond that, they all taught from experience, they taught from their mistakes, which in my book, is more than data. All the staff at ECA are professionals who truly care about their students and their success, and I say this because I learned that and now I apply it to my students. At ECA, I was taught excellence, respect, care and most important love for all the arts, not just my own.

Thank you for your time and I pray that ECA continues to bless and disciple young people they way that I was. Thank you.

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